

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12

RSR-01 /133 W

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R 212043 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5742

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

PORT OF SPAIN 0824

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 0717

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT GJ

SUBJ: N GRENADA INDEPENDENCE PROTEST SUBSIDES

REF: BRIDGETOWN 704, 699

1. PRESS REPORTS THAT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT NOISY PUBLIC MEETING MAY 19 ATTENDED BY DEP. BRIT. GOV. REP. GEORGE BAKER FROM ST. VINCENT ANNOUNCED DECISION TO END BUSINESS SHUTDOWN WHICH BEGAN MAY 15 AND WHICH REPORTEDLY AFFECTED 80 PERCENT OF ISLAND'S BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS. IN GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ISSUED MAY 16 GOG CHARGED THAT MANY WORKERS HAD BEEN LOCKED OUT AGAINST THEIR WILLS IN EFFORT TO MAKE IT APPEAR THEY HAD JOINED THEIR EMPLOYERS IN PROTEST. STATEMENT ALSO CLAIMED THAT LOSS OF REVENUE TO BANANA AND COCOA PRODUCERS AS RESULT OF PROTEST WAS CONSIDERABLE AND WOULD CAUSE MUCH HARDSHIP.

2. GRENADA'S CIVIL SERVICE ASSOCIATION, ACCORDING TO PRESS, ISSUED STATEMENT MAY 17 STATING THAT ALTHOUGH IT DID NOT APPROVE STRIKE " AT THIS TIME, NEVERTHELESS, THE ASSOCIATION WISHES TO IDENTIFY WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN PROTESTING THE MANNER IN WHICH INDEPENDENCE IS SOUGHT. THE CIVIL SERVICE ASSOCIATION IS FIRMLY OF THE VIEW THAT AN ISSUE

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AS SERIOUS AS INDEPENDENCE SHOULD BE A MATTER FOR PUBLIC DIALOGUE. WE CONSIDER THAT MANY OF THE EXPRESSIONS OF PROTEST WHICH ARE CURRENTLY BEING VOICED IN THE STATE RERCVED FROM THE SAME FUNDAMENTAL CONCERN WHICH WE HAVE BEEN EXPRESSING WITH REPENT TO GOVERNMENT' S OVERALL ATTITUDE." ONAMMENT: WCTH CFA' S DECLARATION, 6 OF 7 PRINCIPAL MEMBERS OF GRENADA' S TRADE UNION CONGRESS (ALL EXCEPT GAIRY' S MANUAL AND MENTAL WORKERS UNION) HAVE SUPPORTED INDEPENDENCE PROTEST EITHER FORMALLY OR INFORMALLY.

3. OPPOSITION WAS REPORTED OVER WEEKEND TO BE JUBILANT AT NEWS FROM LONDON THAT TALKS HAD ENDED WITHOUT APPARENT DECISION ON INDEPENDENCE, WHICH WAS BEING INTERPRETED AS PARTIAL VICTORY FOR GAIRY' S OPPONENTS.

4. DEATH THREATS WERE REPORTEDLY RECEIVED LAST WEEK BY SEVERAL BUSINESSMEN AND NEWSMEN IN GRENADA. INCLUDING ALLISTER HUGHES, WHO IS WIDELY READ COLUMNIST THROUGHOUT EASTERN CARIBBEAN, AND LESLIE FEON, AP REPRESENTATIVE AND OPPOSITION SYMPATHIZER. OTHERWISE, ONLY INCIDENT REPORTED WAS WINDOW SMASHING EARLY MAY 17 AT ONE GAS STATION WHICH DID NOT SUPPORT SHUTDOWN. AS OF MAY 21 GRENADA POLICE CHIEF TOLD EMBASSY SITUATION HAD RETURNED TO NORMAL.
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